WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF THE A. F. OF L., BY INSTRUCTION OF ST. LOUIS CONVENTION, DIRECTED THE OFFICERS AT HEADQUARTERS TO FURNISH A WEEKLY NEWS-LETTER FREE OF COST, TO ALL OFFICIAL LABOR PUBLICATIONS.

Containing a brief summary of important matters, affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and such other information that will further the development and progress of the trade union movement.

No. 8.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR
HEADQUARTERS
801-809 G ST., N. W., WASHINGTON, D. C.
FRANK MORRISON, SECRETARY SAMUEL GOMPERS, PRESIDENT

"THE M'NAMARA CASE"

Leading Article in June American Federationist Strongly Presents Labor's Attitude.

A COMPLETE SURVEY

Mr. Roosevelt's Recent Utterances in the Outlook Printed in Full with Extended Comment.

Washington, May 27.--The leading article in the June issue of the American Federationist, by President Gompers, deals with the McNamara case. It quotes in full former President Roosevelt's article in the Outlook, then deals with the article, as Mr. Roosevelt is the spokesman of a number who think like him. The article occupies sixteen pages, and should be read by all as an exposition of labor's attitude on the McNamara case. The following are a few quotations:

"If the trade unionists had been taught by events not to attach much credit, or even in most cases any credit, to the yarns of detectives in regard to the case which had been an almost daily production for months after the explosion, they had all the more reason to put their own interpretation of the significance of the finding of dynamite in the building in which Secretary McNamara had his office. If it can be proven that dynamite was stored there to the knowledge of Secretary McNamara, he is a fit subject for an examination as to his sanity by expert alienists. The incredibility that a directing dynamiter would have a stock of the explosive either near his business office or about the home of either of his parents, or of any of his relatives, is an absurdity, if we are to give the accused man credit for the least sense of caution whatever."

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"Trade unionists were further impressed with the idea that the 'stage had been set' by the fact that the lawyer for the Manufacturers' Association, Walter Drew, was at hand before the arrest, ready to supply the press with a list of seventy alleged dynamite explosions as having recently taken place. All the scenery and properties of the piece had thus been made ready beforehand. It might seem even that a good part of the press reports, such as a list of dynamitings, had been mailed days before marked, 'To be released on order of Detective Burns when he makes a certain spectacular arrest.'"

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"The entire proceedings of the prosecution in the case of the

officers of the Structural Iron Workers bears a strong resemblance to the proceedings four years ago in the prosecution of the officials of the Western Federation of Miners. The kidnapping, the spectacular advertising of the prosecutors, the wholesale charges of murder, a self-confessed culprit turning state's evidence, stories coming from him too extravagant to be believed, the many evidences of secret deliberations and plottings in the offices of the attorneys for the employers, the strenuous endeavor to prejudice the country against organized labor—all these factors have alike been conspicuous in the two cases."

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"What is the outcome to be? Are the real plotters to be brought to book? Is there a deep criminality beneath the surface of current happenings which the public has not yet suspected? If the unions had had the same amount of money to expend as their antagonists, how deep could they have probed into the conspiracies against them? How many of their accusers are themselves capable of acts which might shock mankind? Readers, note and take these queries to heart. Remember them."

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The circular appeal issued by the executive council for financial assistance for the proper defense before the courts of the incarcerated men, and for the prosecution of the kidnappers is also published in the June issue of the American Federationist.

OHIO LEGISLATURE

Labor Organizations Have Secured the Passage of Many Remedial Statutory Enactments.

Washington, May 27.—The Ohio legislature has recessed until May 31, but so far in the session the following laws have been passed:

Requiring reports to state shop inspector of fatal or totally disabling accidents to factory operatives.

Requiring guarding of elevators and shafts against accidents.

Increasing penalties for failure to guard dangerous machinery.

Increasing the penalty for failure to safeguard dangerous machinery after being condemned by the state factory inspector.

Giving city and state inspectors coequal powers in notifying building contractors of failure to place safety counterfloors in structures.

Making it an offense to counterfeit the union label or to use the name or seal of a labor union without authority.

Limiting hours of working women to 10 hours a day and 54 hours a week, except in mercantile establishments and hotels and household servants.

Workmen's compensation act, creating a state board of awards to make awards to injured workmen and the dependent heirs of workmen killed by accidents in industries, from a state insurance fund, to which the employer, if he elects to accept the law and regularly employs more than five persons, shall contribute 90 per cent and the employes 10 per cent of the assessments, and the awards to be classified by schedule. Employers refusing to accept the law are denied the defenses of contributory negligence, fellow servant law and assumed risk in suits for damages.

The structural Iron Workers at Cleveland, Ohio, have gained an increase in wages from $4.80 to $5.20 for eight hours without friction.

"SLEEPING" FACTS

Intensely Interesting Information That Is Never Given General Publicity Heard in Congress.

Washington, May 27.—While every utterance in Congress is duly recorded by stenographers and appears in the Congressional Record, and while hearings before committees and commissions are likewise a matter of record, yet, owing largely to the voluminous printed documents the greater portion of vital matters are lost to view. Just recently in a speech made on the floor of the House the following facts were stated; having been collected by the New York Child Labor Commission:

Children's dresses are paid for at the rate of 50 cents per dozen, the average daily output for one person in thirteen hours is one dozen.

Violets are made for 3½ cents per gross, and a mother, three girls and a grandmother earn 60 cents per day.

The average wage of an entire family at garment finishing is from 60 to 70 cents per day.

Making cigarette wrappers brings 10 cents per 1,000, and a woman working from 6 a. m. to 12 p. m. can make $2 per week.

STILL MORE "OVERLAPPING"

Washington, May 27.—Australia, although conspicuous for the political influence exerted by the unions, appears not yet to have arrived at the Utopian mecca. There is now another contest on, one among many, between the Cold Storage Employes' union and the Rural Workers' union over jurisdiction or "overlapping". The contention arises over the claims by both the Cold Storage Workers' and Rural Workers' organizations for jurisdiction over the butter factory employes.

CANADIAN CONCILIATION

Washington, May 27.—Representatives of the parties concerned in the existing dispute between the coal miners and the operators of British Columbia and Alberta held a consultation and have requested Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King to name a chairman of a board of conciliation to investigate the controversy. The minister of labor immediately selected Dr. C. W. Gordon of Winnipeg. It is stated that the selection is acceptable, for the reason that Dr. Gordon is familiar with mining conditions and has shown a sympathetic interest in the lives and work of the miners.

BI-WEEKLY LABOR PAPER

Arrangements Are Being Perfected to Enter the Daily Newspaper Field by California Publication.

Washington, May 27.—"Organized Labor," a weekly publication devoted to the interests of the organized workmen of San Francisco, will shortly be issued as a bi-weekly, with the expectation that ere long it will again change its plan to that of a daily newspaper. It is asserted that a daily paper voicing the sentiments of trade unions has become a necessity on the coast, as well as accurately chronicling the facts in reference to the activities of union labor.

CARPENTERS MAKING HEADWAY

Strike of Millmen in Grand Rapids, Michigan, Succeeding in Their Efforts to Better Conditions.

Washington, May 27.—A letter from Secretary Duffy of the Brotherhood of Carpenters states that the strike now being carried on by the millmen of Grand Rapids, Mich., is effective, and that a number of firms have signed an agreement and men have returned to work. Prospects are bright for an early settlement, as hardly a day passes that some firm does not come to an understanding with the organization and sign the agrement. Only 2,700 are now out, but it is reported that they are standing loyal and will remain so until the remaining firms conclude to enter into contractural relations with the Brotherhood.

WOMEN'S TRADE UNION LEAGUE

Preparations Are Under Way for the Third Biennial Convention, Which Will Be Held Next Month.

Washington, May 27.--The third biennial convention of the National Women's Trade Union League will convene in Boston June 12, 1911. The league has been active and assisted materially in spreading the principles of trades unionism among the women workers. It has also done valuable service in great strikes where large numbers of women have been involved. During the sessions of the convention a mass meeting has been arranged, and, among others, John Mitchell will deliver an address.

"BOOT TRADE STAMP"

National Union of Boot and Shoe Operatives Endeavoring to Popularize Its New Label.

Washington, May 27.—Union labels in foreign countries are not in general use, in fact, very few exist, and in comparison with this country amounts to comparatively nothing. But recently the National Union of Boot and Shoe Operatives in England have adopted a union label to be placed upon the product of its members, wherever agreements with manufacturers can be secured. The emblem to be used is a triangle within a circle, and around the outside edge of the circle are the words, "National Union of Boot and Shoe Operatives," and on the inside of the triangle, besides the outlines of a shoe, are the words, "Trade Union Labour."

SLIPPER TRADE LOCKOUT

Washington, May 27.--Over 5,000 operatives in Bacup, Rawtenstall and Waterfoot districts, Great Britain, have been locked out, and the blame is attributed to the masters. Notices were posted giving notice of the prices that would be paid by the firm. The Slipper Makers' Union endeavored to get an conference relative to sixty of the prices for readjustment, offering to accept the other prices named in the schedule, but the masters refused and locked the operatives out. The firm also desired a five-year agreement, which was unanimously refused. A rule was also promulgated by the firm, which will "lay off all married women first when slack time comes, unless the married woman is the breadwinner, until business revives." Negotiations are under way for a settlement.

PRISON LABOR NEWS

Renewed Efforts Being Made to Eliminate Products of Convicts Coming in Competition with Free Labor.

Washington, May 27.—The legislature of Missouri at its last session passed a comprehensive measure relating to the inmates of its penal institutions in reference to their employment. Congressman Booher of Missouri has introduced a bill in Congress, H. R. 5601, "to limit the effect of the regulation of interstate commerce between states in goods, wares and merchandise wholly or in part manufactured by convict labor or in any prison or reformatory." The provisions of the bill give a state or territory the right to exclude convict made goods by statutory enactment. With this bill enacted into law the system of contracting convicts for the manufacture of products in large institutions holding vast commercial prowess will in measure be beneficial to not only small manufacturing establishments employing free labor, but assist each state in upbuilding its own manufacturing interests.

"BUSINESS ACUMEN"

Manufacturing Company Fighting Against Reciprocity Measure, but Employs Convicts.

Washington, May 27.—Whenever an attempt is made to readjust any schedule in the existing tariff law numerous interesting shadows are mirrored on the congressional screen. The American Fork and Hoe Company, the "Farmers' Tool Trust," has a contract at the state prison at Jackson, Mich., in the name of the Withington & Cooley Company, one of its constituent corporations, and in the name of the Iowa Farming Tool Company at the state penitentiary at Fort Madison, Iowa. The parent company is making a bitter fight against the lowering of duty on farming tools from Canada, advancing the usual "cost of labor" reasons. It seems hardly possible that the labor cost of manufacture in Canada is less than 30 or 40 cents per day, the price the trust pays for its convict labor in this country.

LAUNDRY WORKERS WIN

Locked Out Employes in Salt Lake City, After Valiant Struggle, Get Agreement.

Washington, May 27.—On March 20, this year, the laundry workers in a number of laundries in the Mormon city were locked out for the offense committed in joining a union. About 100 were affected. Other laundry workers, realizing the attitude of the employers, became restive and the trouble spread with the result that 400 quit their employment and joined the ranks of the locked out men and women. Efforts were made to break their ranks, but this signally failed. Finally negotiations were made for a settlement and has been successful, every laundry in the city signing the agreement, which returns former employes to work without discrimination and in effect recognizes the Laundry Workers' Union.

PLASTERERS GET INCREASE

Washington, May 27.—The plasterers, of Ft. Wayne, Ind., after a strike of some weeks, came to an agreement with their employers, getting 50 cents per day increase.

SHEET METAL WORKERS

Splendid Gains Shown in Increases of Wages Distributed Over a Large Section of Country.

Washington, May 27.—The Amalgamated Sheet Metal Workers' International Alliance reports a steady increase in membership and increases in wage scales scattered over a large area. A few of the more prominent wage changes follow:

Terre Haute, Ind., 22½ cents per day increase.
Youngstown, Ohio, 25 cents per day increase.
Niagara Falls, N.Y. 80 cents per day increase.
Springfield, Ill., 40 cents per day increase.
Oswego, N. Y., 50 cents per day increase.
Little Rock, Ark., 40 cents per day increase.
Flushing, L. I., 50 cents per day increase.
Holyoke, Mass., 52 cents per day increase.
Worcester, Mass., 25 cents per day increase.

"REYNOLDS'" ADVICE

Editorial in English Publication Gives Expression Against Prevailing Custom.

Washington, May 27.—Reynolds' Newspaper, one of the foremost English publications, in an editorial paragraph, remarks:

"It would appear that the tipping system is at the bottom of the London taxi cab trouble. The whole difficulty would be solved if the giving of tips were entirely prohibited. One doesn't tip an engine driver for steering him from King's Cross to Edinburgh. Why should it be necessary to subsidize the taxi man who conveys him from Picadilly to King's Cross? Tipping demoralizes the men and annoys the public."

FINED UNDER FACTORY ACT

Washington, May 27.—The Factory act of Great Britain contains a provision that women and girl employes must be allowed a certain and stipulated time for meals. Recently the Dressmakers' union filed complaint against a firm that had disregarded the act in this particular and the defendant was fined 30 shillings in each case.

FRIENDLY SOCIETY FUNDS

Washington, May 27.—In the United Kingdom there are 29,524 friendly societies, with a membership of 13,789,556, and total funds amounting to a little in excess of $387,000,000. Discussion is now rife as to what effect, if any, the new Lloyd George workmen's compensation law, if enacted, will have upon these organizations.

CHILD LABOR DECISION

Washington, May 27.—In a decision handed down by the Supreme Court of Tennessee it is held that an amendment to the state's child labor law making it unlawful to employ children under 14 years of age in factories, mines or workshops is not constitutional. The effect of the decision is to reduce the age at which children may be employed to 12 years.

FAR OFF SOUTH AFRICA

Washington, May 27.--A meeting was recently held at Capetown of representatives of all trade unions in South Africa for the purpose of framing a constitution for the proposed South African Federation of Trade Unions. The Amalgamated Society of Engineers have nineteen branches in that country, and the constitution finally adopted conforms to that of the Federation of Trade Unions in Great Britain. The state-owned railway shops have been a big factor in lowering the standard of wages, and the indiscriminate immigration is becoming serious, because many of the big construction jobs commenced after the war are nearing completion. The new federation will now deal with the various problems as a unit.

STRIKE IN CAPETOWN

Washington, May 27.--The Typographical Society in Capetown, South Africa, has called a strike against the employment of non-unionists. There are 800 men out, but the employers are standing by the "free and independents," just the same as frequently occurs in America.

FIGHTING EIGHT-HOUR LAW

Washington, May 27.--As a result of the passage of the eight-hour law for women in California the owners of the California Cotton mills at Oakland posted notices of a reduction of 10 per cent, attributing it to be necessary on account of the law shortening the hours. Immediately the 250 employes ceased work, being composed chiefly of women and children. The mill officials were bitter opponents of the bill, and this move of reducing wages is taken as a bluff to fight the new law.

FOR UNION LABEL PAPER

American Order of Foresters Will Hereafter Use Only Paper Bearing the Union Watermark.

Washington, May 27.--At a convention recently held in Holyoke, Mass., of the American Order of Foresters resolutions were passed committing the fraternal organization to the use only of paper manufactured by companies employing union labor. Following is the substance of the resolutions:

"Resolved, By the American Order of Foresters that we hereby agree to patronize only such stationery as is made in mills where union labor is employed under the eight-hour system, bearing the union label watermark of the Brotherhood of Papermakers.

"Resolved, That this general court now in session hereby instruct its officials to purchase only such product as bears the union label watermark of the Brotherhood of Papermakers, which is the only genuine guarantee against buying product made under the unfair conditions existing in a number of the paper mills.

"High wages to workmen, mechanics and artisans, and time and leisure hours at night mean greater membership to the fraternal and beneficial orders and, therefore, they should champion the cause of higher wages and shorter hours."

A PERTINENT ARGUMENT

Excerpt of a Speech Made in Congress Alluding to Labor Makes a Lucid Comparison.

Washington, May 27.—Congressman John G. McHenry of Pennsylvania delivered a speech in the House a few days ago on the farmers' free list, one portion of which is full of interest and deftly put:

"We have drifted away from our original moorings, and listening to the seductive plea of the dollar we have forgotten the interests of the man. The wage earner, from the standpoint of production, is in the same class as the farmer, but, unlike the farmer, he has not the help of the soil, the sun and rain, nor has he additional capital. He is dependent alone upon his own physical and mental energies which God has given him. He can do a certain number of days' work in his life and no more.

"There is no loss so great as the loss to labor of a day's work. It is the capital account of the workman. He cannot replace it. Nobody can. Nature has allotted him a given number of days. He cannot sell them twice. He cannot issue new stock and increase his capital like the manufacturer and corporation. In times of prosperity protection gives him the little end of the increased profit. In times of depression he must bear the big end of the loss, for he must bear a double loss—the loss of his earnings and the loss of a portion of his capital in every idle day, which he cannot replace."

FINES BILL A LAW

Washington, May 27.—The Massachusetts legislature has passed a law giving unions the legal right to fine their members in conformity with the rules thereof, and the governor has attached his signature. The act provides that "no fine or notice of intention to impose a fine by any union or any other association, incorporated or unincorporated, or by any authorized representative thereof, upon any member thereof, according to the rules thereof, to which such member has agreed to conform, shall be held to be unlawful or coercive as to such member or as to any other person, provided that such fine is reasonable in amount and is for a purpose which is legal."

CONGRATULATORY TELEGRAMS

Washington, May 27.—Within twenty-four hours after the United States Supreme Court handed down its decision quashing the sentences imposed by Justice Wright on President Gompers, Secretary Morrison and Vice President Mitchell telegrams began pouring in. Every section of the country furnished its quota, and cablegrams from foreign countries attested the interest which has been taken not only at home, but abroad.

AFTER 1912 CONVENTION

Washington, May 27.—The United Trades and Labor Council of Buffalo, N. Y., has determined to enter the competition for the convention of the American Federation of Labor in 1912. Back of the council, it is stated, are a number of civic organizations. Active steps have already been taken to start the campaign.

BROTHERHOOD OF PAINTERS

International Organization Making Rapid Strides and Executing Many New Agreements.

Washington, May 27.—The Brotherhood of Painters, Paperhangers and Decorators have been successful in a general advance in wages and securing of agreements since the first of the year. The scales per hour or day is herewith given, selected from various sections of the country:

Utica, N. Y., 44½ cents per hour, Saturday half holiday; two-year agreement.

Haverhill, Mass., $2.80 per day; one-year agreement.

Creston, Iowa, 35 cents per hour; one-year agreement.

Mamoroneck, N. Y., $3.75 per day; one-year agreement.

Alexandria, La., 37½ cents per hour.

Kenosha, Wis., 50 cents per hour; Saturday half holiday.

Bakersfield, Cal., $4.00 per day; one year agreement.

Cohoes, N. Y., 37½ cents per hour, double time for overtime and holidays; Saturday half holiday.

Victoria, B. C., Canada, $4.00 per day; one-year agreement.

All the above are based on the eight-hour day.

MARTIN OF COLORADO

Honor Conferred on Him to Open Debate in the House on the Admission of Territories as States.

Washington, May 27.—Congressman Martin of Colorado was selected by his colleagues to open the debate on the admission of New Mexico and Arizona to statehood. His speech demanded attention, and in the rapid fire of interruptions disclosed his ability as a debater. Mr. Martin is a member of the Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen.

MILLMEN CEASE WORK

Washington, May 27.—The Mill Owners' association of Buffalo, N.Y. refused to meet and confer with a committee representing the United Brotherhood of Carpenters relative to changes of conditions, and as a result 400 men quit work. The mills are working ten hours per day, while the great majority of the skilled trades are on an eight-hour basis.

COMPENSATION COMMISSION

Washington, May 27.—The Workmen's Compensation Commission will meet again to hear arguments on June 14. At that time it is expected that extended hearings will be had for and against. This question is becoming one of the important ones, and prevailing sentiments appears to be heading toward the point where the principle will be established that industry must in large part be charged up with its just proportion of humanitarian responsibility.

TRAINMEN'S WAGE INCREASE

Washington, May 27.—W. G. Lee, President of the Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen, in his annual report certifies to the fact that the increase in wages of the trainmen in the United States during the year 1910 amounted to $37,000,000.

GRANITE CUTTERS

Washington, May 27.--The following statement has just been received from Sec.-Treas. Duncan:- Trade agreements in The Granite Cutters' Association are sometimes made "for one year or longer" with three months notice of change by either side prior to March, April or May, as the case may be, of each year, but in most instances their agreements run for three, four, or five years. This year one-third of the branches in our organizations gave notice of change of three and five year agreements, and while in some localities several weeks suspension took place there have been progressive settlements made with practically a uniform increase of 25 cents per day. The Saturday half holiday is quite plentiful in those agreements now for summer months, but all agreements entered into this year carry a clause that, beginning with the Springtime of 1913, there is to be a Saturday half holiday all the year around.

A fight now exists in that trade in Georgia and in Oklahoma, where employers are so far resisting the increase of wages desired, but it is expected that a settlement will be reached with the same percentage of increase in wages as have been entered into in other granite cutting centers. The only non-progressive locality in the present contention is Rion, S. C. where one firm resorted to a state "injunction mill" for help and the usual questions are pending, but in the meantime union men are not working in those parts.

BUREAU OF MINES ACTIVE

Washington, May 27.--"Failure to appreciate the seriousness of mine fires and a lack of adequate fire protection have resulted in the loss of hundreds of lives and destruction of property in the last few years," says Herbert M. Wilson, chief engineer of the Federal Bureau of Mines. "Two of the most serious disasters in coal mines, the one at Cherry, Ill., in which 262 lives were lost, and the other at the Pancoast mine, near Scranton, Pa., where 74 miners were killed, leaving 45 widows and 137 orphans, originated from trivial causes and ought to have been quickly extinguished without the sacrifice of human life. The mining engineers of the Bureau of Mines have made a careful study of fire in mines, and have concluded that the introduction of comparatively inexpensive fire fighting appliances, the adoption of proper regulations and the institution of a reasonable system of fire drills may minimize fires and confine others to a brief period of time with little damage to life and property."

SALARY LIST RAISED

Washington, May 27.--The Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen have increased the salaries of its officials, the president hereafter to receive $8,000 annually instead of $7,000. The secretary is also given a $1,000 raise, to $6,000. The other officials are to get $500 per year more.

The Tile Layers, Improvers and Helpers of Newark, N. J., during the last six months have secured an increase of $1 per day, with union shop conditions.